Secta. II-97—100,000—21-5-43.

FINANCE (195 48) Department.

MS. SERIES.

G.O. No. 348

Dated 8—4—1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - Appropriation Acts for 1945-46 - Note on "Clearance of objections" - Papers - Recorded.

Finance (A-A) Department.

U.O.NOTE NO.41409 A.A-3, DATED 2nd AUGUST 1947.

Sub: Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Madras for 1945-6 and the Audit Report, 1947 - Preparation of notes for the Public Accounts Committee - Further items.

Ref: Memorandum No.40516 A.A-2, dated 12th July 1947.
No.41409 A.A.2, dated 15th July 1947.

In continuation of the U.O.Note read above, a further statement indicating the points on which notes have to be prepared for the consideration of the Public Accounts Committee is furnished to departments of the Secretariat. The instructions already issued in the U.O.Note cited should be followed in preparing notes on these items also.

D.W.DODWELL,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To the Finance, Development, Public Works and Public Departments.
Copy to the Accountant-General, Madras.

ANNEXURE.

List of items in the Appropriation Accounts, 1945-46 and the Audit Report, 1947, on which further action is required.

Serial number and reference to the Appropriation Accounts 1945-46 and the Audit Report, 1947. (1)	Subject matter. (2)	Department concerned. (3)
1 Page 19, paragraph 17(vi).	Clearance of objections.	Finance.
2. Page 58 ..	Grant VIII - Irrigation - Important comments.	Public Works Department.
3. Page 79, Paragraph 2 ..	Grant XI - District Administration and Miscellaneous - Unprofitable outlay - Grant for rural reconstruction - Rural Water supply.	Development.
4. Pages 179-180, Paragraph 4(A).	Grant XXIV - Civil Works - Workshop Accounts - Loss in the Public Works Workshops.	Public Works Department.
5. Pages 208-209 --	Grant XXIV - Civil Works - Works - Important comments.	-do-
6. Page 229, Paragraph 2(ii)	Grant XXVII - Electricity - Loss due to damage to a transformer in the Electricity department.	-do-
7. Page 230, paragraph 2(iii).	Grant XXVII - Electricity - Loss due to damage to an alternator in an electric power generating station.	-do-

P.T.O.

8.	Page 257, Paragraph 2(b)	Grant XXXII--Civil Defence - Loss due to non-recovery of subscriptions, etc. due to a newspaper concern owned by xthe Government.	Public.
9.	Page 257, paragraph 2(d).	Grant XXXII - Civil Defence - Loss due to non-recovery of equipment stores in the A.R.P. department.	-do-
10.	Page 257, paragraph 2(i)	Grant XXXII - Civil Defence - Loss of revenue on account of hiring to merchants boats originally built in order to assist traffic on the Buckingham Canal at concessional rates for the transport of essential commodities.	-do-
11.	Page 273. ..	Grant XXXIII - Capital Outlay on Irrigation - Important comments.	Public Works Department.
12.	Page 279 ..	Grant XXXV - Civil Works outside the Revenue Account - Important comments.	-do-

Finance (A.A) Department.

Appropriation Accounts for 1945-46 and the Audit Report 1947.

Sub: Delay in clearance of Audit objections.

With reference to item 1 in the annexure to Finance U.O.Note No.41409 A.A.-3, dated 2-8-47, a note has to be prepared by this Department for the Public Accounts Committee on that item viz. clearance of objections".

2. The remarks of the A.G. on the subject are in para 17(vi) on p.19 of the Appropriation Accounts 1945-6 and the audit report 1947. It will be seen therefrom that the audit objections have been given grant - war and classified under the headings "want of estimates" etc. and that only the amounts involved and not the number of audit objections are given. It may be noted that when the particulars of audit objections pending for long periods with the authorities concerned were first brought to the notice of the Government by the Accountant General in August 1946, the actual number of audit objections (besides amounts involved) was also given vide Statement on p.3 of Memo No.46053 A.A-1, dated 28-8-46.

The particulars of outstanding objections as embodied in the audit report represent the position as it stood at the end of March 1947 when the Audit Report was prepared. It is possible that in the interval of 5 months which has elapsed the bulk, if not all, of the objections might have been cleared. It seems desirable, for preparing a note for the P.A.Committee, to have information on the following points so that the Committee may know the latest position in regard to the outstanding objections and in order to enable the Government to circularise those heads of departments who have not yet sent replies to the objections, to take action forthwith for the clearance of the objections:-

(1) Details of the number of, and the amounts involved in the objections specified in para 17(vi) of the Audit Report, and Details of the outstanding objections on this date classified with the amounts involved grant war and according to the heads of departments with whom the objections are yet pending.

The case may be sent to the Accountant General, U.O. and he may be requested to furnish the above information very urgently.

3. On return of the file from the Accountant General, a further circular may be sent to the concerned authorities if necessary to expedite their replies to the outstanding audit objections. The present position as well as the fact of the Government having issued a circular to expedite the clearance of others may be incorporated in the note for the P.A. Committee to be prepared by this Department.

Intd. x x
1-9-47.

Fin.U.O.61913 A.A/47-1
1-9-47.

Accountant General's Office,
Madras.

As required in paragraph 2 above, a statement is enclosed showing the present position of the outstanding objections, the numbers and amounts of items involved and the Heads of Departments or Offices concerned. As it was intended only to bring to notice the large amounts kept under objection uncleared for a long time,

details of the number of items for the amounts shown in paragraph xx 17(vi) of the Audit Report were not collectively kept and are not now easily ascertainable. They have not, therefore, been given. For want of accurate details regarding xxxxxx the various grants relating to works expenditure, the total amounts which remained outstanding under this category were shown against Grant XXIV. The xxx outstanding items of this category on this date have been classified as relating to Public Works, Irrigation Electricity etc., grants.

Sd/-
Accountant General.

M.G.FINANCE (A.A)DEPT.U.O.
A.G.,MADRAS.U.O.No.T.M.15.1071,dated the 26th September 1947.

OUTSTANDING OBJECTION TO END OF DECEMBER,1945.PENDING CLEARANCE ON THIS DATE.

Grant No.	Want of Estimates.	Excess over estimates.	Want of C.D. Bills.	Want of vouchers.	Heads of Departments & Offices.
Civil					
II			536-13-0 (11)		Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Division, through Board of Revenue (Excise) & Southern Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Southern Divisions, Board of Revenue.
XI			3791-5-3 (33)	1868-15-0 (8)	Collectors of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Chittoor, West Godavari and Kistna.
XIII			6678-7-11 (161)		To the Inspector General of Prisons.
XXI				597-14-0 (3)	To the Superintendent, thro. the Director of Industries & Commerce.
XXXI				443-13-0 (2)	District Collectors of Madura and Kistna.
XXXVIII			33831-3-11		Director of Industries & Commerce & Commissioner of Civil Supplies.
Public Works, Irrigation, Electricity Etc. Departments.					
VII	4190 (1)	88225 (12)	..	..	Chief Engineer Irrigation.
X		188031 (1)	..	..	Chief Engineer, Special
XXIV	20233 (1)	4247(8)	..	443(4)	Chief Engineer, General..

	2219981 (15)	56100 (14)	..	1591 (1)	Chief Engineer, Highways.
	4645 (1)	..	..	..	Chief Engineer, Electricity.
XXVII	..	3740 (2)	..	..	Chief Engineer, Electricity.
XXXI	1,79,550 (1)	..	..	..	Chief Engineer, General.
	7,96,519 (10)	50014 (14)	..	..	Chief Engineer, Highways.
XXXIII	..	7090(1)	..	..	Chief Engineer, Irrigation.
XXXV	535(1)	..	..	..	Chief Engineer, General.
XXXVI	33151 (3)	117881(10)	..	..	Chief Engineer, Electricity.
Total Public Works etc. Departments.	32,58,804 (33)	5,15,328 (62)		2034 (5)	
Grand Total	32.58.804	5.15.328	45.837-14-1	6.94-10-0	

Note:- Figures within brackets indicate numbers of item.

Finance (Accounts A) Department.

NOTE FOR THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

(Paragraph 17(vi) on page 19 of the Appropriation Accounts 1945-6 and the Audit Report, 1947).

Subject:--Other items - Clearance of objections.

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REMARKS OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.

All objections raised by the audit office are required to be attended to without avoidable delay. Several cases of abnormal delays were however noticed and a report of the objections relating to the period prior to 31st December 1945 was made to Government, who issued orders impressing on all officers the need for their prompt clearance in accordance with the instructions on the subject. As a result many of the items were cleared. The amounts of objections still outstanding are given below:-

Grant Number.	Want of Estimates.	Want of sanction to excess over estimates.	Want of counter-signed detailed bills.	Want of vouchers in support of payments made.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
II	..	..	2,285	..
IV	975	37,456	..	..
IX and XI	.. ..		8,053	7,349
XIII	.. .. ..	..	50,066	..
XXI	..	..	..	27,447
XXIV ..	51,56,823	9,92,152	..	83,795
XXXI	..	..	..	1,657
XXXVIII	.. ...	..	65,900	1,034
Total	51,57,798	10,29,608	1,26,304	1,21,282

NOTE BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

In August 1946, the Accountant-General, Madras, brought to the notice of the Government the amounts still held under objection in his books on the 30th June 1946 under the headings shown below in respect of transactions that took place on or before 31st December 1945 pending receipt of sanctions or relevant documents:-

	Number of items.	Amount.
(1) Want of estimates ...	167	Rs.59,99,102 0 0
(2) Want of sanction to excess over estimates	189	17,95,407 0 0
(3) Want of countersigned detailed bills.	450	2,34,276 4 9
(4) Want of vouchers in support of payments made.	182	8,28,607 2 10
Total	988	88,57,392 7 7

The Accountant General requested that all the departmental officers concerned might be asked to take prompt action for the clearance of the audit objections in question and that suitable instructions might be issued to ensure strict compliance in future with the instructions on the subject. The Government accordingly drew the attention of the heads of departments to the importance of strict compliance with the rules relating to sanction of revised estimates involving excess of more than 5 per cent over the original estimates etc. and asked them to take urgent action for clearing the pending audit objections forthwith and to comply strictly with the rules in such matters in future. As a result of the issue of these orders, there has been an appreciable reduction in the number of audit objections remaining unanswered.

The particulars of the outstanding objections as embodied in the Accountant General's Audit Report represent the position as it stood at the end of March 1947, when the Audit Report was prepared by him. The greater part of the amounts mentioned by him as held under objection has since been cleared. The following statement indicates the present position as compared with the position at the end of March 1947 (as given in the Audit Report, 1947):-

OUTSTANDING OBJECTIONS TO END OF DECEMBER 1945 PENDING CLEARANCE ON THE DATES SHOWN.

	31st March 1947.			30th September 1947.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(1) Want of estimates	51.57.798	0	0	32,58,804	0	0
(2) Want of sanction to excess over estimates..	10,29,608	0	0	5,15,328	0	0
(3) Want of Countersigned detailed bills ..	(1,26,304)	0	0	15,837	14	1
(4) Want of vouchers in support of payments made.	1,21,282	0	0	6.944	10	0
Total ..	64,34,992	0	0	38,26,914	8	1

The Government have issued special instructions to the officers concerned in October 1947 to take special steps to see that the rest of the old outstanding objections shown above are cleared immediately. The Accountant-General has been asked to report early in January 1948 whether any of these objections remained uncleared on the 31st December 1947. If any of them still remain uncleared on that date, the explanations of the officers concerned will be obtained and suitable action taken.

Copy of Memorandum No.51913 A.A-2, dated 14th October 1947, from the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, to the Accountant General, Madras.

Sub: Delay in the clearance of objections issued by the Accountant General.

Ref: Government Memo (Finance Department) No.46055 A.A-1, dated 28-8-1946.
Finance Department U.O. reference No.51913 A.A-1, dated 1-9-47.
From the Accountant General, Madras, U.O.No.T.M.15.1071, dated 26-9-1947.

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In the Memorandum cited, the Government drew the attention of all the heads of departments to the importance of strict compliance with the provisions relating to sanction of estimates before the execution of work, sanction of revised estimates involving excess of more than 5% over the original estimates etc., and they were requested to take urgent action for clearing all pending audit objections forthwith. The Accountant General has commented upon the delay in the clearance of objections in his Audit Report for 1947 and the Appropriation Accounts for 1945-46. The Accountant General has since furnished a statement in respect of outstanding audit objections raised to the end of December 1945 and still pending clearance. The Government consider it extremely unsatisfactory that there should still be objections of this kind pending from 1945 for want of some routine action by the officers concerned.

2. Relevant extract from the statement furnished by the Accountant General is communicated to . . . . . .
He is requested to give his special personal attention to the immediate clearance of the outstanding items of objections and to report the action taken by him to the Government as early as possible. The Government will have to consider taking suitable disciplinary action if any of these objections remain uncleared on 31st December 1947.

P.T.O.

3. The Accountant General is requested to report early in January 1948 which, if any, of the objections in question remained uncleared on 31st December 1947.

D. W. Dodwell,
Secretary to Government.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

KRVD.23.6.

Copy of letter No.T.M.15-49/1689, dated 28-1-1948, 46-48
from the Accountant General, Madras to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Finance Department.

Sub: Delay in the clearance of objections raised to end of December 1945 and pending clearance on 31-12-47.
Ref: Finance Department Memo No.51913 AA, dated 14-10-47.

With reference to para 3 of the memo cited, I enclose a statement showing the position of the outstanding objections, the number of items and amounts involved and the heads of Departments or offices concerned.

No.	Want of estimates.	Want of sanction to excess over estimates.	Want of counter signed detailed bills.	Want of vouchers (including stamped receipts in support of payments made.	Heads of Departments and offices.
Civil II			143.9.0 (4)		Inspectors of Excise Bapatla, Masulipatam Vellore & Chittoor Board of Revenue, Excise.
XI			1539.13.5 (22)	1471.1.0 (5)	Collectors of Vizagapatam, West Godavari Chittoor, Cuddapah and Krishna.
XIII			4869.7.9 (56)		Superintendents of Jails under the I.G. of Prisons.
XXI				2597-14.0 (3)	Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute under the Director of Industries and Commerce.
XXXI				142.13.0 (3)	Dt.Collectors of Madura and Kistna.
XXXVIII			22531.12.8 (4)		Director of Industries and Commerce.
Public Works, Irrigation, Highways, and Electricity Departments.					
VIII	4190(1)	59715 (10)			C.E. Irrigation.
		188031(1)			C.E. Special.

P.T.O.

XXIV	20233(1)	2410(5)	--	263(3)	C.E.General.
	1272953(12)	32286(13)	--	--	C.E.Highways.
	4645(1)	3740(2)	--	--	C.E.Electricity.
XXVII					C.E "
XXXI	796519(19)	49400(13)	--	--	C.E.Highways.
XXXIII		7090(1)	--	--	C.E.Irrigation.
XXXV	535(1)	--	--	--	C.E.General.
XXXVI	33151(3)	117881(10)	--	--	C.E.Electricity.

(Figures within brackets indicate number of items).

FINANCE (ACCTS.A) DEPARTMENT.

U.O.NOTE NO.51913 AA-5, DATED 20TH FEBRUARY 1948.

Sub: Delay in the clearance of objections raised by the Accountant General, Madras to end of December 1945 - Objections remaining uncleared on 31-12-1947.

Ref: Finance Department Memo No.51913 AA-2, dated 14-10-47. From the Accountant General, Madras, Letter No.TH-15-49/ 1689/46-48, dated 28-11-48.

In the Memo, cited, extracts from the statement furnished by the Accountant General, Madras in respect of outstanding objections raised to the end of December 1945 and pending clearance on 30-9-47 were communicated to the officers concerned, and they were requested to give their personal attention to the immediate clearance of the outstanding objections and to report the action taken by them to the Government. They were also informed that the Government will have to consider taking suitable disciplinary actions if any of these objections remained uncleared on 31-12-47. The Accountant General has now furnished a statement of the objections still pending clearance on 31-12-47.

2. Relevant extracts from the statement furnished by the Accountant General, Madras with his letter read above is communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat concerned. They are requested to obtain the explanation of the officers concerned for the delay in the clearance of objection. With a view to taking suitable disciplinary action against the officers responsible for such long delays and also to impress on them that it is essential to clear these objection without any further delay.

Sd/- x x
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To the Departments of Secretariat (with enclosure)
To the Accountant General, Madras..

FINANCE (ACCTS.A) DEPARTMENT.

In this Department Memo No.51913 AA-2, dated 14-10-47, extracts from the statement furnished by the Accountant General, Madras, in respect of the outstanding objections raised to the end of December 1945 and pending clearance on 30-9-1947 were communicated to the officers concerned, and they were requested to give

their personal attention to the immediate clearance of the outstanding items of objections and to report the action taken by them to the Government. The Accountant General ~~also~~ was also requested to report early in January 1948 which, if any, of the above objections remained uncleared on 31-12-1947. The Accountant General has now furnished a statement of the objections ~~it~~ still pending clearance on 31-12-1947.

2. Relevant extracts from the statement furnished by the Accountant General, Madras may be communicated to the concerned Departments of the Secretariat and they may be requested to obtain the explanations of the officers concerned very urgently for the long delay.

A draft U.O.Note is submitted for approval.

(In the note for the P.A.Committee on "clearance of objections" it has been stated that if any of the objections remained uncleared on 31-12-47, the explanations of the officers concerned will be obrained and suitable action taken).

Issue.

Sd/- x x
20-2-48.

(Issued as U.O.Note 51913 AA-5. dated 20-2-48).

The note on 'clearance of objections' was placed before the P.A.Committee at its ~~refer~~ meeting held on 23-2-48. The Committee's remarks thereon will be found in para 11(v) of the Report at (K). No further action is called for. The papers may now be

G.O.Ms.No.348, dated 8th April 1948.

Abstract. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE - Appropriation Accounts for 1945-46 - Note "on clearance of objections" - Papers Recorded.

R E C O R D E D.

Sd/- x x
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

KRVD.23.6.

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